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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

International Firm Opens New R&D Center in Delaware

Air Liquide Awarded Grant from the State

Dover, Del. (June 4, 2007) – Governor Ruth Ann Minner and the Delaware Economic Development Office celebrated the official opening of Air Liquide’s new Delaware Research and Technology Center in Newark during a ribbon-cutting ceremony today. Paris-based Air Liquide is the world leader in industrial and medical gases with operations in more than 70 countries.

“We were proud to assist Air Liquide in their efforts to relocate their R&D to Delaware and pleased that the new facility will bring many competitive jobs to the state in the coming years,” said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. “Additionally, the Air Liquide Delaware Research and Technology Center will be an excellent addition to the host of Delaware-based companies that are national and worldwide leaders in science and technology.”

The Delaware Economic Development Office awarded Air Liquide a Competitiveness Fund Grant in the amount of \$476,000 to assist the company in consolidating U.S. research and development operations in Delaware, as well as some manufacturing engineering business. The investment will create a projected 119 new jobs or more with minimum salaries of \$55,000 by January 2010. The DRTC will make a direct contribution of \$12,591,277 to Delaware’s Gross Domestic Product.

“High-paying positions in science-related industries are among the jobs that we aim to bring to Delaware,” said Judy McKinney-Cherry, director of the Delaware Economic Development Office. “It is our goal to fortify technology-based industries and take advantage of the contributions companies like Air Liquide make to our existing industry.”

“New Castle County welcomes the expansion of Air Liquide, and we are pleased that more than 100 high-paying jobs will be created by this growth,” said New Castle County Executive Chris Coons.

There are already more than 80 researchers with very diverse training backgrounds working on the new campus. The DRTC will devote itself to 12 areas of research: from gas production to applications in electronics, healthcare and food processing, and in particular clean energy.

The DRTC will house the majority of Air Liquide's research and development activity in North America, and serve as headquarters for subsidiary Air Liquide Advanced Technologies U.S., LLC. It will be in addition to Air Liquide's existing subsidiary operations in Newport and Delaware City.

"With the establishment of the Delaware Research and Technology Center in North America, we have today in total, in our main geographic zones, nearly 3,000 experts dedicated to three major themes: sustainable development, healthcare and technology," said Benoît Potier, Chairman and CEO of Air Liquide. "This center will enable us to profit from stronger synergies between our experts, our customers and the academic world. It will also encourage mobility of the Group's men and women, as well as ideas. This new initiative supports the Group's ambitions. It strengthens its leadership in the field of innovation, responds to the needs of customers and will accelerate growth for the Group."

Air Liquide is part of the Chemistry & Advanced Materials cluster in Delaware, which represents a diverse blend of science and industry engaged in chemical manufacturing, as well as research and development, advanced materials, synthetic resins, instrumentation, intellectual property, and more. In fiscal year 2006, the cluster contributed \$2.08 billion to Delaware's GDP and employed more than 14,500 people.

This press release is also available on the DEDO Newsroom at <http://dedo.delaware.gov/news.shtml>.

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